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requesting suggestions for research work, to be defrayed from the newly created research fund.

Owing to delay in construction it was not possible to hold the meetings, as expected, in Julius Rosenwald Hall, the splendid new building erected for the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Chicago. But although not in its own home, the hospitality extended by the Department found many channels of expression. The members were the guests of the university at luncheon at the University Commons on December 29, and of Professors Salisbury, Goode, Barrows, and Tower at luncheon on December 30. The annual dinner was given at the Quadrangle Club on the evening of December 30. On this occasion, both Professor Goode and Dr. A. H. Brooks commented on the general ignorance of locational geography even among educated people and urged that it was the geographers' affair to remedy this condition. Professor Goode advocated the obligatory use in college courses of an atlas similar to the German school atlases but adapted to American requirements.

The meeting was unusually well attended. In addition to the large number of visiting and local members, a considerable number of students from the Department attended. Several of these were preparing to take their doctor's degrees in geography—an interesting commentary on the development of our science, which up to a short time ago was not recognized in our universities as a major subject for a degree. In this connection it may be remembered that the University of Chicago is, so far as known, the only one of our universities that grants the Ph.D. degree specifically in geography. The first degree was conferred in 1907; and the present considerable number of candidates bears witness to the vitality of the Department.

FIRST EXPLORATION OF THE HARVARD GLACIER, ALASKA

The first exploration of the Harvard Glacier, at the head of College Fiord, in Prince William Sound, Alaska, is reported by Miss Dora Keen, of Philadelphia, as the result of her third expedition to Alaska, from which she returned last fall. She also continued the observations of earlier expeditions relating to the changes taking place in twenty-five glaciers of College Fiord, Harriman Fiord, and Columbia Bay, Prince William Sound. Six weeks were spent in the field.

Miss Keen's previous experience was among the glaciers of the Alps, and in two expeditions to Alaska, entirely on glaciers, on the occasion of her first attempt and final ascent of Mt. Blackburn, 16,140 feet. Her assistants were Mr. G. W. Handy, of McCarthy, Alaska, who had led her up Mt. Blackburn, an expedition requiring five weeks of dangerous glacier travel; G. A. Rabehl, also of McCarthy, experienced on Alaskan glaciers; and Mr. H. L. Tucker, of Boston, topographer, who had taken part in the Parker-Browne ascent of Mt. McKinley to 10,000 feet (1910), and the Yale Peruvian expedition's first ascent of Coropuna, 21,000 feet.

The first object was to explore and map the hitherto unvisited portion of the Chugach Mountains in which the Harvard Glacier heads, and if a pass could be found, to cross to the Matanuska Glacier, on the other side of the range, and return to civilization by the valley of the same name. This would have involved a traverse of some fifty miles of ice and snow, almost all above timber, and a succeeding one hundred miles over a hard wilderness trail almost entirely through uninhabited country, coming out at Cook Inlet.

The Harvard Glacier has a tidal ice-cliff 350 feet high and a mile and a quarter wide. A constant fall of ice from the face causes great waves and "milling" of the floating ice, both of which make a close approach in a small boat difficult and dangerous. A safe landing was, however, effected. Seracs made travel on the glacier itself impossible, so that all supplies had to be relayed painfully on men's backs, and a hard way found at the edge of the ice was the only possible route for seven miles. Timber stopped at tidewater, and even willows, at this seven-mile point, at only 2,200 feet, so that fuel oil and stove had to be carried the entire distance, in addition to food, tents, snowshoes, etc.

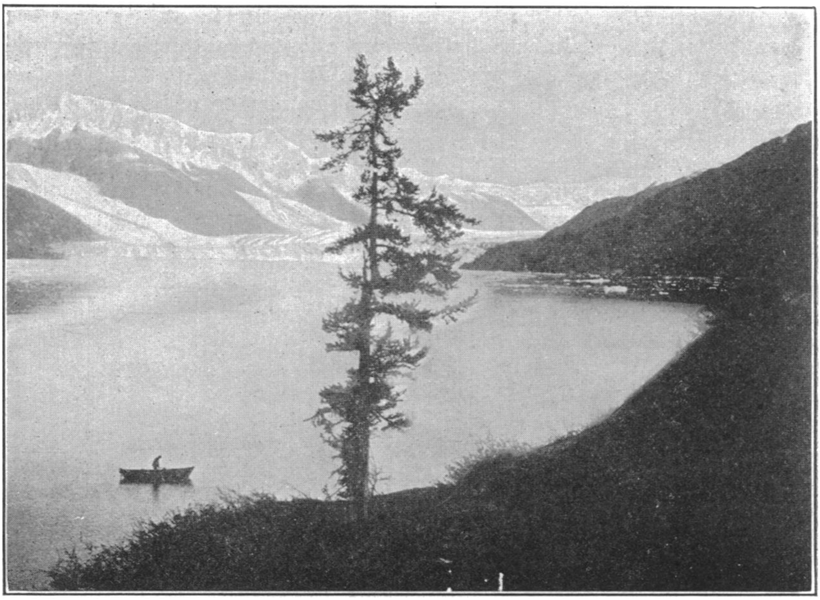

Fig. 1—Harvard Glacier from four miles away The ice-cliff is 350 feet high and 1¼ miles wide, with five large tributaries on each side of it. The glacier is eighteen miles long.

Finally, mounting the glacier itself, another nine miles over endless crevasses brought the expedition to the sources of the glacier, which proved to be eighteen miles long. The party had to halt at a point where the shattered condition of the ice made further progress unsafe, if not impossible, even on snowshoes. The divide was perhaps ten miles further up the Brunonian Glacier, as the main tributary to the northwest was named, and apparently at an elevation of about 7,500 feet; but as it was impossible to proceed further up this glacier and there was no pass, the return had to be made by the same route. The main axis of the glacier ended in a head wall, with mountains ranging up to about 10,000 feet entirely snow-covered.

Sliding snow and steep grades made any serious mountain ascent unsafe, especially in bad weather. Because of the hard going, relaying, and bad weather, this part of the work took nearly four weeks. Its results are observations for the first map of a hitherto unvisited and unmapped region, and observations of snowfall and temperature, which will throw light on the alimentation of the glaciers.

The second purpose was to continue the observations of earlier expeditions, *viz.:* the Harriman, U. S. Geological Survey, and National Geographic Society expeditions. Photographs of all the leading glaciers in College Fiord, Harriman Fiord, and Columbia Bay were made from the same stations occupied by those parties, the object being to determine, by a comparison of views, whether the advance or shrinkage previously noted in some of these glaciers is continuing. A series of such observations has great value for a study of causes, namely, whether the marked changes noted in some cases are due to climatic variations or to earthquakes.

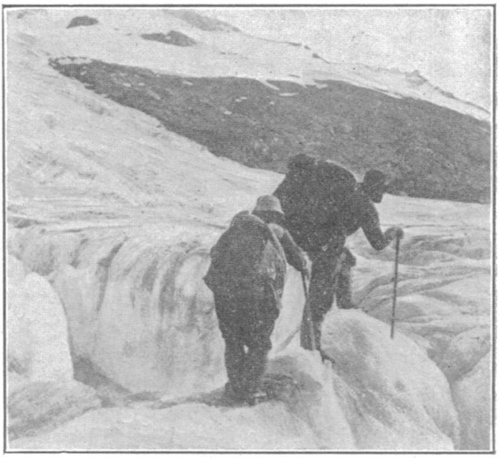

FIG. 2—On a narrow ice bridge between deep crevasses, exploring the Harvard Glacier. Note the heavy packs, Miss Keen in the rear.

Photographs of some twenty-five glaciers were obtained, and in many cases evidence of recession or advance of nearly a quarter of a mile was found. Close approach was sometimes difficult or dangerous because of the amount of falling and floating ice, but care was exercised and there were no mishaps. The expedition was undertaken at the suggestion of Prof. Lawrence Martin of the University of Wisconsin, junior leader of the 1910 and 1911 expeditions of the National Geographic Society.